

Joint Information Center Disaster News



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Joe Klocek (FEMA)

(410) 585-2952

Quentin Banks (MEMA)

(410) 517-5135

Colleen Hiam (SBA) (800) 659-2955

September 24, 2003 Release No.: 1492-009

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER TO OPEN IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

BALTIMORE — The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the state of Maryland will open a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Montgomery County. In an effort to speed assistance to Marylanders affected by last week's hurricane, the DRC will open on Thursday, September 25 at 1:00 p.m. This center is centrally located and intended to serve Montgomery County, Prince George's County and surrounding areas in Maryland. It will be located at:

The Social & Scientific System Corp. 8757 Georgia Avenue, 8th Floor Silver Spring

After opening at 1 p.m. Thursday, operating hours will be:

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Noon to 5 p.m.

Disaster Recovery Centers are designed to provide detailed program information to those who have already applied for assistance under President Bush's September 19 disaster declaration for the state of Maryland. Representatives of state, federal, and voluntary agencies will be present, including loan officers from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Applicants are encouraged to apply by using the FEMA toll-free registration number: 1-800-621-FEMA (3362). The TTY number is 1-800-462-7585 for those who are speech- or hearing-impaired. Recovery specialists are available to take calls from 7 a.m. to midnight, EDT, seven days a week until further notice. To date, 5,108 Marylanders have called to apply.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages Citizen Corps, the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.